

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION

Saturday, February 22 1706.

IN my last I promis'd you a View of modern Prophecy, in which, by the Confession of all that have read it, the Swedes are pointed out as falling into the Interest of France, and making an Eruption in Defence of that declining Monarchy.

The Lines are in *Samuel Colvill's* Mock Poem, Entitl'd *The W'wigs Supplication*. 'Tis a Scotts Piece of Poetry in the same Method with *Hudibras*, inferior abundantly in the Verse; but I must own in some Places for the Turns of Wit and Fineness of Thought, not at all short of him.

However in this Part which I quote, I am content to own, all that can be objected

against the Roughness and irregular Poetry — But give me leave, Gentlemen, to say that foretelling the great Conjunction of this Age, and that France should possess Spain, which things we see are come to pass, and this painted 20 Year ago, has something in it very odd, and may a little justify those, who expect a yet greater Conjunction between the Swede and the French, and after that, a more glorious One beyond them all, between the Powers of Europe — against the Pope — — — but 'till no longer amuse the Reader, the Lines are as follow. —

HE finds both Comets and Eclipses,
But pretty Fortune-telling Gypsies ;
The like Uncertainty he sees,
In Change of Excentricities.

But he foresees with Prophets Unction,
The Effects of a great Conjunction ;
Before the Age begin again,
Spain shall have France, or France have Spain ,
The Monarchy shall spread no further,
If Dutch and English hold together.
And tho' they do, great Tribulation
Follows, with Gothick Inundation.
Spreading from Pomer unto Scluse,
In Defence of the Flower-De-Luce.

But Mutiny for Want of Pay
Proves to the French a dismal Day ;
Then th' English shall say, God be thanked,
The French like Fleas in foulest Blanket,
As soon skip out, as they skip in,
Their Conquest ends e're it begin.
They marr all by unstable Carriage,
As in their old Italian Voyage ;
When quite forsaken of their Helps,
They first brought Shanks or' the Alps.

Col. Whigs Supplication, p. 30, 31.

I only recommend the Lines to the serious Perusal of the Reader for this Time, and shall deferr my Observations to another Opportunity.

MISCELLANEA.

I hope, what I have said in my last Paper about the Fundamentals of Trade, cannot give Offence to any ; I am sure, they are aim'd right, and I am sure, they are argued right, and I am the less concern'd about giving Offence upon those Accounts.

I am sorry to see, the Foundations of our Trade in England struck at under the specious Out-side of Charity and doing Good ; I make no Reflections, I hope the Gentlemen, that move these things, mean well to the Poor——But if I were to make my Choice, and had so hard a Fate before me,

I would think my self happy to be led out to immediate Execution, rather than to have the Curses of a whole Nations Poor follow me to a Grave more remote, or have it wrote on my Grave-stone, that here lyes D. F. that projected the Destruction of the English Manufactures, and ruin'd the Poor of this Kingdom.

I think it therefore an indispensable Duty on me, as a Member however unworthy of the English Nation, as a Community, to set up my Beacon, and pardon the Cant, as some call it, bear my Testimony against this.

this Evil, let it come from what Fountain, by what Channels, and guided into the World by what Instruments soever, I purpose no Offence to any, nor shall I make Reflections ; but I must search this Wound to the Bottom, let it smart where it will, and if it gangrenes any where, it shall not be my Fault.

Trade is the Life of this Nation, we can no more live without it, than without Bread, nor can we have Bread without it ; for tho' the Lands in *England* equally divided might, as I hinted before, supply the full Number of the People here with Food ; yet the Lands as now divided, and as the People are divided, I mean into rich and poor, would not feed half of the People : Not that the Quantity would fail, but Employment being taken from the Poor, they would immediately want the Means to buy Bread, and then unless the Rich divided it to them *Gratis*, they must starve ; to divide it *Gratis*, would be to divide their Estates again, and so all comes to the levelling Principle again.

But Trade is the Life of a Nations Wealth ; Trade makes thousands live in a Country, more than the Lands can maintain ; Trade makes the whole World live by, and depend upon one another ; Trade makes barren Climates fruitful, thinly-inhabited Countries populous, poor Countries rich, cold uninhabited *America* warm, hot scorching *Africa* cool ; it makes scattering Huts grow into Villages, little Villages into large Market-Towns, and those again into populous Cities ; Trade forms Corporations, procures Privileges, and makes the Burroughs and Towns merit to be represented in Parliament, as well as the Nobility and Freehold.

Again, Trade forts the People, it plants them in Numbers and Bodies, from whence comes Union and Wealth, and from thence Strength and Power, and all the Appendices which serve to make Nations great, opulent and famous in the World. 'Twould be needless to descend to Particulars in a Nation grown great by no other Method ; *England*, now in a Way to be the greatest Nation in the World, is wholly rais'd by Trade, its Wealth, Lands, People and Strength are all improv'd and increas'd by

the Assistance of Commerce, and we stand now in our own present happy Posture on only two Foundations ; growing Wealth by great Manufactures, and just Government to secure Property and support Trade.

I could enlarge on these Heads, if I had Leisure for the Debate, and could very well illustrate the real Growth, Greatness, Wealth and Prosperity of this Nation to consist in its Commerce, to rise from it, depend upon it, and that it must sensibly and proportionably decay with it : But I cannot think this so needful now, as what else remains to be said ; since I hope, I need not suppose *England* so hoodwink'd in her Reason, as not to know it.

I come therefore to examine the *Modus*, how and by what Method Trade has brought all this to pass, and then shall enter into the true State of the *English* Trade ; how it subsists, how it has insinuated it self, like the Animal Spirits in the Body, into every Part of the Nation, and how it affects by its Influence every Branch of our Prosperity ; and this, I hope, will convince those, before whom the Matter now lyes, of what Consequence it must be to turn the great Channel of our Trade from its natural Course, interrupt its stated Office, *viz.* Maintaining the People, and giving Employment to the Poor.

When I speak of Trade in general, I include our whole Commerce ; but as I come to the Particulars, I must distinguish, and I shall do it, as concisely as I can.

Our Trade is to be divided into Iland Trade, foreign Trade and Manufactures— 'Tis true, our Manufactures here are the Foundation of all our Trade, summarily consider'd ; because they are the Staple of our Exportation, and the Subsistence of our People. But again, our Home-Consumption, both of our Produce and of the vast Return we make from abroad, is the Life and Support of our Manufactures.

If we had not by our Numbers of People, and our Manner of Living in *England*, a vast Consumption for the Goods which we import from all Parts of the World, our Manufactures would find a great Check abroad in their Sale ; and in particular our Navigation would be entirely ruin'd, since that Nation, that can only freight her Ships out,

out, and bring little or nothing home, can never employ Shipping on an equal Foot with her Neighbours; the back Freight of all our Ships being the Encouragement of their Voyages, the Charge of which must else lye wholly on the Manufacture exported.

WHENCE AS, the Author of this Paper has for some time been out of England, and consequently is suppos'd not near enough to his Affairs, to receive such Letters as are wanted to be convey'd to him; These are to give Notice, that any Letters left as usual for him at Mr. Matthews will carefully be sent to him, and such Answers as are proper be return'd by him in a Weeks time, either in this Paper or as shall be Direc'd.

Also that all such serious or diverting Subjects, whether Questions or otherwise, as any of the Ingenious Readers are pleas'd to send as formerly, shall be spoken to as usual, in the best manner the Author can do it, which he hopes shall be as acceptable as before.

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